



Ask Your Questions

Please use your note card for any questions that you would like to ask and then pass the card to Rebecca Buhner.

Questions will be addressed at the end of the program.

Dedication

- This program is dedicated to both Michael and his second wraparound facilitator, **Marta Stamwitz**, who worked with him for three years, assisted in identifying committed providers, and built upon family strengths.
- Michael told Marta that she was like a mother to him. He misses her greatly but promised her to work with Jamie and Larry.

Family is Everything!

Michael's world revolves around his older brother **Andrew** and younger brother **Brandon**. Outside of Michael's time in residential treatment, they have never lived apart. Some tried to suggest that they would be better off with **Michael** out of the home.



Life in Foster Care



From birth, foster mommy **Nancy Baldwin** provided loving care for 4 years in her Anderson home until Michael's adoption.

His maladaptive behaviors began at age 2.

Multiple Diagnoses

Michael was diagnosed with **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome** at the age of three due to the confirmation of his birthmother's use of alcohol during pregnancy. All five of siblings also have FAS.



Michael was additionally diagnosed with **Bipolar Disorder** at the age nine when he completely fell apart at school, became violent in the classroom, and failed to respond to redirection or intervention.

Extended Family

Michael has five biological siblings, the two youngest were adopted by other families.

Michael also has two older adoptive brothers who now live in Washington, Indiana near their birth family.



Served in the Community



15 hospitalizations became expensive respite with surprising consequences.

Home consistently provides the best care. Wraparound services have kept Michael in the home.

Two residential stays at the Midwest Center in Kouts and Lutherwood in Indianapolis actually increased mental health symptoms.

Animals – Pet Therapy



Michael has always bonded well with animals and enjoys their unconditional love.

His dog **Halli** and cat **Angel** provide ongoing comfort and expect nothing in return.

Medication

Michael sees **Dr. Uma Kalapatapu** at the Raj Clinics monthly. Finding a psychiatrist who takes Medicaid hasn't been easy. Current meds:

- Lithium – the key
- Intuniv
- Lamictal
- Invega

Kidney function is being closely monitored.



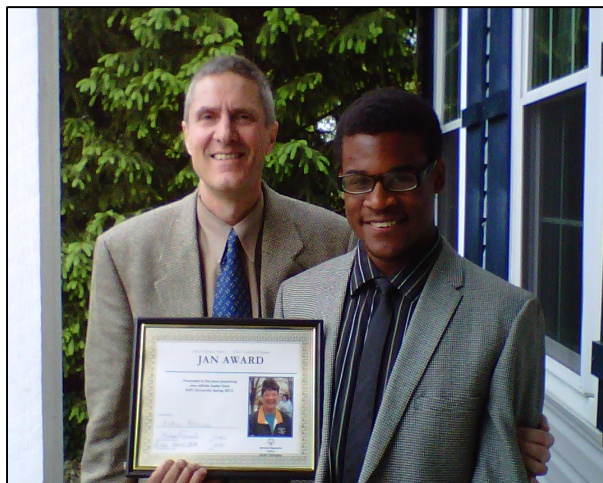
Special Olympics

Involvement on the Washington Township **Special Olympics** team has helped Michael accept his disability and develop a growing circle of social contacts.

Participation can last a lifetime.



Natural Supports



Nothing is more important in Michael's life than his family.

He knows that his father and siblings will always provide assistance and stand with him.

Executive Functioning

Michael struggles daily with the following:

- Initiating tasks
- Inhibiting behaviors
- Transitioning between activities
- Using his working memory
- Organizing
- Full Scale IQ - 59



Crisis Plan – Dynamic Duo



The goal within the home is keeping everyone safe at all times and de-escalating behaviors without incident.

Andrew and **Brandon** take their roles very seriously.

Better than a Therapist



Brandon has learned to help when asked rather than add to Michael's escalation. This process has taken years to develop. **Michael** adores Brandon who oftentimes is the only person able to squash his brother's negative outlook before it leads to physical aggression.

The Peace Maker

Andrew is the family peace maker and will always try to reason with Michael, even when he is not willing to hear the message. **Michael** wants to be more like Andrew and is making progress in his social skills.



Music

Todd Hawks

Music Teacher
Charles A. Tindley
Accelerated
School

3 years at school

Allowing Michael
to pursue his love
of singing in an
environment that
is appropriate



Strengths & Challenges



Jamie Thomas Habilitator

1.5 years on team

Helping Michael
understand and
appreciate the
natural supports
within his family

Processing
ongoing behavior

School Interventions

Marcel Bonds

Paraprofessional
“Michael’s
external brain
at school”

3 years at school

Providing
structured and
consistent one-on-
one support at
school



Hands-On Habilitation



Larry Brunson Habilitator

1.5 years on team

Working with
Michael in
community and
volunteer settings

Improving fitness
and maintaining
weight

IEP: A Work in Progress

Penny Gregory

Exceptional Learner
Coordinator,
Charles A. Tindley
Accelerated School

3 years at school

Adjusting Michael's
schedule based
upon his needs and
running interference



All Hands on Deck

Nakia Douglas

Director of Exceptional
Learners,
Charles A. Tindley
Accelerated School

6 years at school

Creatively using all
available school
resources to find
meaningful instruction
through age 21.



Vocational Education

Tom Peterson

Audrey's Place
Furniture

Uncle for 15 years

Supporting
Michael in a work
environment and
coaching him on
interpersonal
interaction and
job readiness



Audrey's Place Furniture, 3210 E. 10th Street

Guardianship



**Stasia
Demos Mills**
Attorney

8 months

Serving as legal
counsel for
Michael's
guardianship and
helping him
through the
process with care

www.demosmillslaw.com

Questions from Audience

Thank you
to Rebecca Buhner
for collecting questions
and sorting them.

To Learn More

Adopting Faith: A Father's Unconditional Love

by D. Craig Peterson

A memoir of his fifteen year journey raising six children
with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Reactive Attachment
Disorder, ADHD, Bipolar Disorder, Borderline
Personality Disorder